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Wendell, Barrett. *Liberty, Union, and Democracy.* Pp. 327. Price, \$1.25.
New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1906.

This is in many respects a remarkable book. Even those who disagree fundamentally with the brilliant generalizations of the author cannot deny the bristling suggestiveness of every page. The breadth of view and acuteness of analysis which characterize this book give it an unique place in our political literature. Briefly stated, it is an attempt to present the fundamental characteristics of American political psychology. As such it ranks far above the efforts of Boutney, Klein, Hanet and the other French writers who have attempted to present the race psychology of the American people.

Mr. Wendell has made a conscientious effort to reach the foundations of our national character. In his view we must look to the Englishmen of pre-Revolutionary England (1620-25) for the origin of those traits which are characteristically American. In a few paragraphs the author brings out clearly the contrast between the Englishman of 1620 and the Englishman of 1775. The idealism of the first period was inherited by the early settlers in America and was most marked in the New England colonies. "The origin of our national character can be traced to the instinctive idealism of pre-Revolutionary England, strengthened by the intensely orderly idealism ingrained in those who faithfully accepted the Calvinistic creed." This strain of idealism has persisted in American character in spite of our extraordinary industrial prosperity. To superficial observers we may seem materialistic; to the careful student of American life our national character, while seemingly material, is in reality idealistic.

In the chapter on "Liberty" the author traces the conflict between the two concepts which prevailed in the United States prior to the civil war, that of individual liberty and national unity in the North and that of local self-government in the sense of state sovereignty in the South. The tragedy of the conflict which ensued is eloquently described. The chapter on "Union" is devoted to an examination of the gradual growth of the spirit of national unity as finally expressed in the results of the Civil War.

In his treatment of "Democracy," which forms the subject of the final chapter, Mr. Wendell shows the marked differences between the American and the European concepts. "However fervently Americans may have believed that all men are created equal, they have never gone so far as to insist that all men must remain permanently so." The Napoleonic watchword, "Careers open to talents," has occupied quite as prominent a place in the American mind as the belief in equality.

This very brief summary gives an inadequate idea of the value of Mr. Wendell's essay. There is at present a widespread tendency to sneer at these attempts to encompass national psychology within a series of brilliant generalizations. When, however, these generalizations are as suggestive as those presented in this little book they well deserve and must receive the attention of every student of political science.

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